

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KAMPAL 01115 261822 Z

72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 GAC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

RSR-01 /152 W

----- 023362

R 261347 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2228

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1115

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR UG FR

SUBJ: REPORTED FRENCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES TO UGANDA

SUMMARY: ON MARCH 25 IS ASKED FRENCH AMBASSADOR ABOUT BBC REPORT THAT FRANCE HAS AGREED SELL UGANDA EIGHTY APC' S CAPABLE OF BEING EQUIPPED WITH SURFACE- TO- SURFACE MISSILES. HIS BEHAVIOR INDICATED REPORT IS PROBABLY TRUE. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTERNOON BBC NEWS BROADCASTS MARCH 25 CARRIED REPORT THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED SELL UGANDA EIGHTY APC' S CAPABLE OF BEING EQUIPPED WITH SURFACE- TO- SURFACE MISSILES. THIS AGREEMENT RESULTED FROM VISIT TO FRANCE OF GOU MILITARY MISSION, ACCORDING REPORT. BBC EDITORIALIZED THAT SUCH SALE WAS " UNDERSTANDABLE" IN VIEW OF FACT THAT 1972 HAD BEEN A VERY BAD YEAR FOR FRENCH ARMS INDUSTRY, WHOSE SALES WERE DOWN.

2. AT GREEK NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION THAT EVENING I APPROACHED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KAMPAL 01115 261822 Z

FRENCH AMBASSADOR THABAULT WHILE HE WAS CHATTING WITH NIGERIAN AND GHANAIAI HIGH COMMISSIONERS. ASKED HIM IF HE HAD HEARD REPORT AND IF IT WERE TRUE. HIS FIRST RESPONSE WAS, " NO, I DIDN' T HEAR IT. DID THEY ANYTHING ABOUT MIRAGES?" WHEN I REPLIED NEGATIVE HE REMARKED," WHAT ABOUT THE HELICOPTERS YOU SOLD TO GENERAL AMIN?" ITALIAN COMMERCIAL ATTACHE ARRIVED ON SCENE AT THAT MOMENT AND CONFIRMED MY STATEMENT THAT THESE HAD BEEN ITALIAN HELICOPTERS MADE BY AGUSTA UNDER LICENSE FROM BELL AND WERE TO EQUIP POLICE AIR WING. THABAULT NOTED THAT BBC IS " NOT VERY FRIENDLY" TO FRANCE, THEN LEFT ABRUPTLY AND CONFERRED AT SOME LENGTH IN ANOTHER PART OF ROOM WITH HIS COUNSELOR AND NEWLY- ARRIVED MILITARY ATTACHE.

3. COMMENT: FRENCH ATTACHE ARRIVED LAST WEEK WITH NO ADVANCE NOTICE. FOR LONG TIME UK HAD BEEN ONLY COUNTRY WITH RESIDENT ATTACHE, BUT A SUDANESE ARRIVED ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO. NUMBER OF DIPLOMATS AT RECEPTION HAD UNKIND WORDS ABOUT FRENCH ACTION OF SELLING AMIN HARDWARE AT TIME HE IS BEING ESPECIALLY BELLICOSE. THEY CONSIDERED IT MOST UNWISE TO PROVIDE HIM WITH WHEREWITHAL TO CARRY OUT THE THREATS AGAINST HIS NEIGHBORS HE IS SO FOND OF MAKING. ASIDE FROM PURELY COMMERCIAL BENEFITS, THIS MILITARY SALE, IF CONFIRMED, WOULD BE FULLY IN KEEPING WITH THABAULT' S ATTITUDE TOWARD AMIN REGIME AND POLICY HE HAD BEEN ADVOCATING WESTERN NATIONS SHOULD ADOPT TOWARD GOU IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AND WITH VISITING FS INSPECTOR.

4. COMMENT CONTD: THABAULT' S GENERAL APPROACH IS THAT AMIN IS FORERUNNER OF NEW BREED OF AFRICAN LEADERS WITH WHOM WEST MUST WORK, HE IS CARRYING OUT A " SOCIAL REVOLUTION" IN WHICH THOSE OF PEASANT BACKGROUND ARE REPLACING THE OLD BAGANDA ESTABLISHMENT IN RUNNING THIS COUNTRY, THERE IS NO ANTI- CATHOLIC ELEMENT BUT ONLY NATIONALISM IN THE GENRAL' S POLICIES, GOU NEEDS AID MORE THAN EVER TODAY TO HELP IT SUCCEED IN NEW DIRECTIONS IT HAD UNDERTAKEN, ARMY WILL BE RUNNING COUNTRY FOR YEARS TO COME SO WE MIGHT AS WELL WORK WITH THEM. (PERSONALLY, WHILE LISTENING TO HIM I THOUGHT I WAS BACK IN ATHENS). LOCAL BRITISH FEEL ACUTELY THAT THABAULT' S AND GOG' S POLICY GENRALLY IS AIMED AT PICKING UP PIECES THEY ARE BEING FORCED TO LAVE BEHIND OWING TO AMIN' S HOSTILITY TOWARD BRITS. THEY NATURALLY RESENT THIS BEHAVIOR ON PART OF NEW COMMON MARKET PARTNER. I AM AMONG THOSE WHO THINK THABAULT' S APPROACH IS MIS- GUIDED, AS I INDICATED TO HIM BY STATING: " I ASSUME YOU HAVE ASSURED YOURSELVES OF THE GOU' S ABILITY TO PAY FOR THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KAMPAL 01115 261822 Z

EQUIPMENT."

KEELEY

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KAMPAL01115
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KAMPALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730337/aaaahfg.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971229
Subject: REPORTED FRENCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES TO UGANDA
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, FR, UG
To: AF
DAR ES SALAAM
KIGALI
LONDON
NAIROBI
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC

USCINCEUR

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005